CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for providing electronic mail (e-mail) services, said method comprising:

receiving from an original sender a request for tracing notifications, for an e-mail

5   message;

in response to said request, creating at least one tag for said e-mail message, indicating that said

original sender is to receive said tracing notifications;

receiving said tracing notifications; and

providing limits for said tracing notifications;

10   wherein said tracing notifications operate when said e-mail message is forwarded to at least one

non-original recipient.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said providing limits further comprises one or more limiting

actions selected from the group consisting of:

15   limiting the time during which said tracing notifications operate,

limiting the number of retransmissions for which said tracing notifications operate,

limiting said tracing notifications' operation, based on a domain policy,

limiting the content of said tracing notifications,

and discontinuing said tracing notifications, in response to a signal from said original sender.

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3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing to a user

a representation of said e-mail message,

together with information as to who has been provided with the content of said e-mail message.

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4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

storing and updating said information.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting said tracing notifications to said original sender, from said at least one non-original

recipient.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said transmitting tracing notifications further comprises

transmitting one or more tracing notifications selected from the group consisting of:

5   notifications reporting that said message has been sent somewhere in some manner,

notifications reporting that the content of said message was provided to said at least

one non-original recipient,

and notifications reporting deletion of said message.

10   7. A method for providing e-mail services, said method comprising:

in response to a request from an original sender, transmitting tracing notifications to said original

sender; and

providing limits for said tracing notifications;

wherein said tracing notifications operate when an e-mail message is forwarded to at least one

15   non-original recipient.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein said providing limits further comprises:

limiting the time during which said tracing notifications operate.

20   9. The method of Claim 7, wherein said providing limits further comprises:

limiting the number of retransmissions for which said tracing notifications operate.

10. The method of Claim 7, wherein said providing limits further comprises:

responsive to a signal from said original sender, discontinuing said tracing notifications.

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11. The method of Claim 7, wherein said providing limits further comprises:

limiting said transmitting, based on a domain policy.

12. The method of Claim 7, wherein said transmitting tracing notifications further comprises:

signaling that the content of said e-mail message has been provided to said at least one non-original recipient.

13. The method of Claim 7, wherein said transmitting tracing notifications further comprises:

5   signaling that said e-mail message has been forwarded to said at least one non-original recipient.

14. The method of Claim 7, further comprising:

providing to a user

a representation of said e-mail message,

10   together with information as to who has been provided with the content of said e-mail message.

15. The method of Claim 14, further comprising:

storing and updating said information.

15   16. A system for providing e-mail services, said system comprising:

means for receiving from an original sender a request for tracing notifications, for an e- mail message;

means responsive to said request, for creating at least one tag for said e-mail message, indicating that said original sender is to receive said tracing notifications;

20   means responsive to said tag, for transmitting said tracing notifications to said original sender; and

means for providing limits for said tracing notifications;

wherein said tracing notifications operate when said e-mail message is forwarded to at least one non-original recipient.

25   17. The system of Claim 16, wherein said means for providing limits further comprises:

means for limiting the time during which said tracing notifications operate.

18. The system of Claim 16, wherein said means for providing limits further comprises:

means for limiting the number of retransmissions for which said tracing notifications operate.

19. The system of Claim 16, wherein said means for providing limits further comprises:

means responsive to a signal from said original sender, for discontinuing said tracing notifications.

5   20. The system of Claim 16, wherein said means for providing limits further comprises:

means for limiting said transmitting, based on a domain policy.

21. The system of Claim 16, wherein said means for transmitting tracing notifications further comprises:

10   means for signaling that the content of said e-mail message has been provided to at least one non-original recipient.

22. The system of Claim 16, wherein said means for transmitting tracing notifications further comprises:

15   means for signaling that said e-mail message has been forwarded to said at least one non-original recipient.

23. The system of Claim 16, further comprising:

means for providing to a user

20   a representation of said e-mail message,

together with information as to who has been provided with the content of said e-mail message.

24. The system of Claim 23, further comprising:

means for storing and updating said information.

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25. A computer-usable medium having computer-executable instructions for providing e-mail services, said computer-usable medium comprising:

means for receiving from an original sender a request for tracing notifications, for an e- mail message;

means responsive to said request, for creating at least one tag for said e-mail message, indicating that said original sender is to receive said tracing notifications;

means responsive to said tag, for transmitting said tracing notifications to said original sender; and

means for providing limits for said tracing notifications;

wherein said tracing notifications operate when said e-mail message is forwarded to at least one non-original recipient.

26. The computer-usable medium of Claim 25, wherein said means for providing limits further comprises:

means for limiting the time during which said tracing notifications operate.

27. The computer-usable medium of Claim 25, wherein said means for providing limits further comprises:

means for limiting the number of retransmissions for which said tracing notifications operate.

28. The computer-usable medium of Claim 25, wherein said means for providing limits further comprises:

means responsive to a signal from said original sender, for discontinuing said tracing notifications.

29. The computer-usable medium of Claim 25, wherein said means for providing limits further comprises:

means for limiting said transmitting, based on a domain policy.

30. The computer-usable medium of Claim 25, wherein said means for transmitting tracing notifications further comprises:

means for signaling that the content of said e-mail message has been provided to at least one non-original recipient.

31. The computer-usable medium of Claim 25, wherein said means for transmitting tracing

notifications further comprises:

means for signaling that said e-mail message has been forwarded to said at least one non-original

recipient.

5   32. The computer-usable medium of Claim 25, further comprising:

means for providing to a user

a representation of said e-mail message,

together with information as to who has been provided with the content of said e-mail

message.

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33. The computer-usable medium of Claim 32, further comprising:

means for storing and updating said information.